

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-09

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R 031245Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7032

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS TUNIS 6161

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BTRA, TS

SUBJ: FOLLOW-UP: HOSPITAL MEDICAL TRADE MISSION

REF: STATE 170152, ALGIERS 1579

1. DRAWING ON REFTTOTDTKCHRRRAOWSTE MONGI FOURATI, CHEF DE CABINET, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, JULY 12 PROPOSING A POSSIBLE REVERSE TRADE MISSION OF TUNISIAN DOCTORS AND HOSPITAL OFFICIALS TO THE US TO FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS INITIATED DURING THE SUBJECT TRADE MISSION. WHEN REPLY NOT FORTHCOMING, EMBASSY PURSUED IN MEETING WITH FOURATI. FOURATI INDICATED THAT MISSION TO US WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE BECAUSE OF COST, TIME REQUIRED FOR VISIT AND LANGUAGE PROBLEM.

2. EMBASSY THEREFORE HAS CONCENTRATED ON PROMOTING THE PARIS TRADE CENTER EXHIBITION OF BIO.MEDICAL EQUIPMENT WITH FOURATI AS WELL AS MAILING TO 150 MEMBERS OF TUNISIAN MEDICAL AND HOSOPITAL COMMUNITY. RESPONSES INDICATE THAT AT LEAST FIVE TUNISIANS WILL ATTEND THE PARIS SHOW - THREE REPRESENTING DISTRIBUTORS OF HOSPITAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND TWO REPRESENTING LARGE HOSPITALS IN TUNIS.

3. FOURATI POINTED OUT TO EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT IN NEXT TWO YEARTLGOT WILL BE BUILDING FOUR REGIONAL HOPSITALS OUTSIDE OF TUNIS AND TWO TEACHING HOSPITALS, ONE IN TUNIS

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AND ONE IN SFAX. IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A MAJOR

PROGRAM OF MODERNIZATION OF EXISTING CLINICS. TUNISIA,
THEREFORE, REMAINS GOOD MARKET FOR HOSPITAL MEDICAL EQUIP-
MENT AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO WORK WITH DISTRIBUTORS OF
US EQUIPMENT HERE. WE EXPECT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ONE OR
TWO LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS WILL EXHIBIT US HOSPITAL MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT IN US PAVILION AT 1975 TUNIS FAIR.
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